

Appl. No.: 10/007,118

Amdt. dated: October 22, 2004

Reply to Office Action of: September 22, 2004

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 13, 14, and 19-25 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being obvious over Fuller, U.S. 2002/0171617 A1, in view of Sakaguchi et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,448,951.

Fuller discloses a display arrangement that includes (1) a backlight 124; (2) a stack that includes a polarizer 122, a glass substrate 120, an active matrix layer 118, a transparent electrode 116, and an alignment layer 114; (3) liquid crystal molecules; and (4) a stack that includes an alignment layer 110, a transparent electrode 108, a color filter array 106, a glass substrate 103, and an analyzer 102.

Fuller discloses that the backlight layer 124 includes an edge light source and a diffuser film. The edge light source may be an arrangement of cold cathode fluorescent tubes, an arrangement of LEDs, a combination of both or any well known source arrangement. Being an edge light source device, the backlight 124 is illuminated with light sources around a portion of its perimeter, where the light is scattered, exits the backlight, and passes through the diffuser. In addition, the LEDs may be colored to effectuate color mixing and variable intensity level. Accordingly, the backlight layer 124 provides a uniform output across the display, albeit of different color or variable intensity level. See, Fuller, paragraph 34. The intensity of the light transmitted to each color filter element is determined by the liquid crystal element and the active element associated with that color filter element. See, Fuller, paragraph 39.

Sakaguchi et al. disclose a liquid crystal display device that includes a backlight 4. The backlight includes N backlight sections having an optical guide 18 that is provided with light from an arrangement of edge source red, green, or blue light emitting diodes. The light enters the optical guide 18 from the edge where it is scattered, exits the optical guide, and passes through a light scattering sheet 19.

Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Fuller in view of Sakaguchi et al. by claiming a method of illuminating a backlit display that includes the light source being spatially displaced at a location at least partially directly beneath the plurality of pixels.

In contrast, Fuller and Sakaguchi et al disclose displays that include edge source

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light emitting diodes. There is no suggestion nor motivation in Fuller nor Sakaguchi et al. to modify their systems in the claimed manner.

Claims 2-14 depend from claim 1, either directly or indirectly, and are patentable for the same reasons asserted for claim 1.

Claim 19 patentably distinguishes over Fuller in view of Sakaguchi et al by claiming the light source being spatially displaced at a location at least partially directly beneath the plurality of pixels.

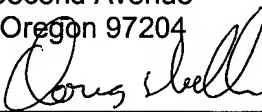
Claims 20 and 21 depend from claim 19, either directly or indirectly, and are patentable for the same reasons asserted for claim 19.

If the Examiner believes that for any reason direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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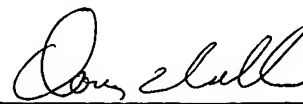
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 22, 2004.

Dated: 10/22/04


Doug Wells